DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 403 169 SO 026 259

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TITLE Exploring Size.
SPONS AGENCY Exploratorium, San Francisco, CA.
REPORT NO ISSN-0889-8197
PUB DATE 95
NOTE 28p.
AVAILABLE FROM Exploratorium, Exploratorium Mail Order Dept., 3601 Lyon Street, San Francisco, CA 94123 ($5, plus shipping).
PUB TYPE Collected Works - Serials (022) -- Guides - Classroom Use - Instructional Materials (For Learner) (051) -- Guides - Non-Classroom Use (055)
JOURNAL CIT Exploring; v19 n3 Oct 1995

EDRS PRICE Document Not Available from EDRS.
DESCRIPTORS Architecture; *Art Education; Elementary Secondary Education; Instructional Materials; *Interdisciplinary Approach; Mathematics Education; Museums; *Physical Sciences; *Science Education; Sensory Experience; Visual Perception
IDENTIFIERS *Size Estimation

ABSTRACT

"Exploring" is a magazine of science, art, and human perception that communicates ideas museum exhibits cannot demonstrate easily by using experiments and activities for the classroom. This issue concentrates on size, examining it from a variety of viewpoints. The focus allows students to investigate and discuss interconnections among apparently unrelated phenomena, revealing the essential unity of nature. Seven articles investigate size: (1) In "Worlds Apart" (Eric Engles) students discover the many ways size affects living things, as they learn small and large organisms actually inhabit different worlds; (2) "Model Magic" (Ellen Klages) takes readers behind the scenes to learn how scaling and other movie special effects fool people; (3) "Try This! Cylindrical Challenges" (Paul Doherty) has three activities that introduce students to volume; (4) "What if You Double It?" (Thomas Humphrey) uses real-life examples to explore why this apparently simple question is actually one of the deepest questions of science; (5) "David & the Distorted Room" (Lauren McLean Ayer) uses Michaelangelo's "David" and a distorted room to demonstrate how perception is governed by physical perspective, cultural conditioning, and, sometimes, optical illusions; (6) "A Pygmy's Perception" (Colin Turnbull) focuses on how environment effects perception of the world, through one person's size-distance experience; (7) "The Stressful Life of Buildings" (Barry Kluger-Bel) examines how architecture in part is governed by scaling. Regular departments give factoids, answers to readers questions, and information on related tools, toys, reading, and teaching strategies. (DQE)

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